

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND
DON KNABE

May 12, 2015

Recovery Solutions for Sexually Exploited Children

On March 3, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion from Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Knabe to implement procedures to prevent child sex trafficking at motels accepting County vouchers. The Director of Public Social Services Sheryl Spiller, District Attorney Jackie Lacey, the Mayor of Compton Aja Brown, and Sheriff Jim McDonnell all provided statements about the growing problem of child sex trafficking and the need to use all available means to end this abuse, and the Board acted decisively.

But the County's work does not end there. The next step is to support and provide for the recovery of the youth rescued from these abhorrent conditions. Sexually exploited children experience extreme physical, medical, psychological, emotional and social challenges as they attempt to escape their exploitation. Helping them will require safe, supportive housing; a range of services provided by a number of agencies working together; and a continuum of care to fully address their individual needs. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a multi-agency response for these youth, to allow them an opportunity to begin the process of healing and leading full, productive lives.

The County must use all available resources and explore all options to assist these youth, including services from multiple County departments, the evaluation of available properties including non-profits and private organizations, serious consideration of best practices employed across the country, the development and

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

implementation of consistent tracking and assessment tools and using information and implementing plans that are data driven and outcomes-based. As such, we refer to the April 14, 2015 motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Solis which identified \$6.7 million of Healthier Communities, Stronger Families and Thriving Children (HST) funds which can be used towards these efforts.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board direct the Directors of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Chief Probation Officer, the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, in consultation with County Counsel, the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, the Dependency Court and the Juvenile Court to report back in 90 days on the feasibility of developing a safe facility, as well as exploring additional safe housing options, that would specifically serve Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) who are under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department and DCFS, to provide them with a safe place to stay, that has appropriate features to discourage runaways and prevent access by exploiters. Such a placement including, but not limited to sites within the County, and the use of County properties, would provide specialized care to address trauma, physical and behavioral health issues that make it difficult for these victims to function in traditional settings. We should also explore broader plans that define appropriate treatment options, reduce the number of victims and provide a plan to keep them safe by utilizing a portion of the \$6.7 million in HST funds.

WE FURTHER MOVE that our advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C. be instructed to pursue legislation that would enhance the County's ability to safely house and protect Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).

#

HLS: JYP
DK:NI